

Gulf countries' missile settlement

After a week of statements of more Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories, a major meeting took place at the UN agency which helps Palestinian refugees — the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East — to discuss a conference. "We must believe in the freedom of people to go where they want." But feelings run very high among the Palestinians when it comes to what they think they belong to them. I have this from the Palestinians and from the Arab governments. "He said it made no difference if the settlers were here. Jewish immigrants or established families amounted to a million Jews. Now he said it will allow Soviet Jews to travel and live freely to anywhere they wanted. Gorbachev, who called his visit to Jordan "a success," had told me that he would like to see the Jordanian government do more to welcome Israel to its borders. But he stressed, that "Jordan's stance toward the Palestinians is right."

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Mubarak meets Thatcher in London

LONDON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak talked with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Thursday night about the spread of weapons and missile technology in the Middle East, a government spokesman said.

The spokesman said the two leaders also discussed the Middle East peace process and Libya. As he left the prime minister's 10 Downing Street office, the visiting president told reporters: "I hope that there will be some improvement in Britain's relations with Iraq." Britain's Ambassador Harry Walker flew back to Baghdad Thursday after being recalled following the execution of British-based journalist Peter Bergman. Mubarak later dined with Mrs. Thatcher at Downing Street. The Egyptian president arrived in Britain Wednesday from Moscow, where he talked with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He was to leave for Cairo Friday.

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Pakistani premier shares concern over Jewish immigration and Jerusalem

King, Bhutto discuss West Asian situation

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Friday held talks believed to center on the situation in West Asia, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and Afghanistan as well as the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reporting the two leaders meeting, said that the discussions covered bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern. The agency did not give details, but earlier statements by Bhutto herself and other Pakistani and Jordanian officials have indicated that the Palestinians problem, Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories, the Afghan situation and the dispute over Kashmir were expected to figure high in the talks.

Prime Minister Muqrin Badran, who received the Pakistani prime minister upon her arrival here from Syria, and Jordan wanted to explain to her "what is happening in Palestine, what is happening with the excessive Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and implications not only for the occupied territories and the international but also to the Arab and Islamic worlds."

Bhutto, who is here on the fourth leg of a tour of Islamic countries in a bid to seek diplomatic support for Pakistan in its dispute with India, also referred to the Middle East conflict and Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. In an arrival statement, she said her country shared the concern of the Arab countries

"over the rising influx of (Jewish immigrants) to Arab lands and the new threats to Jerusalem."

Pakistan's ambassador to Jordan, Tariq Khan Afridi, told the Jordan Times this week that the Pakistani premier would "primarily discuss Kashmir's conflict as well as problems in the Middle East, including the colonization of Arab lands by the new Jewish settlers."

The ambassador affirmed that Bhutto's talks with Jordanian leaders on Kashmir would not be "directed against any third party, including India."

Bhutto, who is accompanied by Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, Minister of State for Defence Sarver Chima and senior officials as well as her businessman husband Asif Ali Zardari, renewed criticism against India in her arrival statement. "In Kashmir, a heart-rending tragedy is being enacted," she said, reading from a prepared statement. "Having waited in vain for more than 40 years for the U.N., India and Pakistan to fulfill their pledge to hold a plebiscite to choose between India and Pakistan, the people of Kashmir have risen up to overthrow Indian rule," she said.

In her speech, Bhutto is carrying the draft of a resolution which Pakistan intends to present to a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in Cairo next month. The draft resolution, according to the reports, calls for Islamic support for Pakistan's stand over Kashmir, one third of which is ruled by Pakistan and the rest by India.

In their airport statements, both Badran and Bhutto described Jordanian-Pakistani relations as "very strong."

But it was not clear what kind of Jordanian response awaited the Pakistani leader in her quest for backing over Kashmir. A senior official said: "It is only natural that Ms. Bhutto would seek support from all friendly states, and it is our duty to listen to her since we ourselves seek support from friendly countries whenever necessary." The official did not elaborate.

Israel forces also placed at least 30,000 under curfew in the occupied West Bank.

The violent confrontations occurred at Balata refugee camp outside the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

An army spokesman said an Arab teenager was killed when a policeman opened fire with rubber bullets on a group of activists.

The new 30-member police unit established in Jerusalem is named for the biblical warrior Gideon, from the Old Testament.

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis kill 13-year-old, place thousands under siege

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers

fatally shot 13-year-old Palestinian boy during a clash with stone throwers Friday and police

formed a special undercover unit to handle an upsurge in violence at the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Israeli forces also placed at least 30,000 under curfew in the occupied West Bank.

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Call for 'transfer' of Palestinians linked to Shamir's coalition chance

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir

Friday faced demands from a crucial right-wing ally to hold a referendum on proposals for massive expulsions of Palestinians, as a condition for joining a new governing coalition.

Shamir, reaching in a telephone interview, said "even putting the idea on the agenda (for talks) is out of the question and inconven-

tient. Shamir, the head of the right-wing Likud bloc, has another 21 days by Israeli law to try and build a coalition to replace the government that has toppled in a March 15 parliament vote of no confidence.

So Likud has failed to reach agreement with any of its six potential rightist and religious governing partners for a majority in the 120-member parliament.

The main problems are conflicting demands for cabinet posts and conditions put by extreme right-wing parties to shelves U.S.-backed Middle East peace moves.

Shamir indicated he asked for extra time because of disputes with potential partners over the distribution of cabinet posts as well as over the new government's guidelines.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جordan Times Foundation

Mandela to maintain pressure

ALGIERS (R) — South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela said Friday he would tour European capitals starting on June 3 to insist that international sanctions must continue against Pretoria. He dismissed the South African government's abolition on Wednesday of racial segregation in most state hospitals as inadequate because it left gaping inequalities between black and white hospital workers. "Any country that now agrees at this time to come to lift sanctions either is totally ignorant of what is happening in South Africa or is simply a supporter of apartheid," Mandela told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to Algeria. South African President F.W. de Klerk is now touring Europe to seek support for his reforms aimed at giving blacks a say in political decision-making, but Mandela said it was soon to be imposed. "Apartheid is still in place. Nothing has happened in regard to its dismantling. The basic issue in our political struggle is giving every South African the right to decide his or her own affairs. We are still very far from that."

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Islamists claim control of Zarqa Municipality

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — Islamists have secured an overwhelming victory in municipal council elections in Zarqa, securing eight seats in the 10-member panel and claiming the support of another winner, leaving only one seat for a candidate described as a nationalist.

Official results announced Thursday showed that the "Islamic Action Bloc" clinched eight seats, with its leader Yasser Al Omari securing 9,735 votes out of a total of 21,953 votes cast. Mohammad Monsa Ghwairi, who secured the third highest number of votes (6,338) under a "Zarqa Islamic Bloc" platform, was supportive of the Islamic Action Bloc, thus giving Islamists almost total control of the first elected Zarqa municipal council in 12 years. Omari told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from the Zarqa Community College, where he was celebrating his bloc's victory and receiving well-

wishes Friday evening.

The lone "nationalist" elected to the council was Ahmad Abu Khurma, who secured 4,750 votes — the 10th highest — against his nearest competitor, another Islamic Action Bloc candidate, Khalid Sharour, who won 4,450 seats.

"You can see that the difference was only 300 votes between the two," Omari told the Jordan Times. "The candidate who was the next highest number of votes (3,700) was a non-nationalist candidate, and this is only an indication of the Islamic Action Bloc's popularity."

"We are decades-old residents of Zarqa and we are totally aware of the city's problems, and every one knows it," Omari said, explaining the Islamists' strong showing in the city of 63,000 eligible voters and 450,000 residents. However, he could not offer any immediate explanation to the just-about-one-third voter turnout for the elections despite a 24-hour extension aimed at drawing more voters.

The government is expected to appoint two members to the coun-

cil, one of them a Christian, according to regulations governing municipal councils. The appointments are expected to be named before the newly-elected council's first meeting, which Omari expected to be held in two weeks.

Omari said it was up to majority decision by his bloc, which has a heavy Muslim Brotherhood content — five of its candidates are formal members of the Brotherhood — whether he should seek mayoralty of the town about 25 kilometers north of Amman, which has been run by government-appointed commissioners since 1978.

"By no means is Zarqa a poor city," Omari said. "Its annual municipal revenues exceed JD 5.5 million, and if properly utilized this could dramatically improve the city's public services."

Following is the list of the candidates who won the elections: ("Islamic Action Bloc" unless otherwise mentioned).

Yasser Al Omari, Abdul Bari Al Hamdan, Mohammad Monsa Ghwairi ("Zarqa Islamic Bloc"), Mansour Al Mheisan, Saleh Daifallah, Mousa Al Zoghoul, Ziazi Al Deek, Nabil Al Shishani, Mohammad Ughli Al Ghwairi and Ahmad Abu Khurma ("nationalist")

Ministry rescinds ban on male hairdressers

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Interior has rescinded a decision taken last month to ban male hairdressers from working in beauty salons for women, ending a four-week controversy over the legality of the move.

Hairdressers Association President Ama Naber told the Jordan Times Friday that ministry officials told the association "during that the ban has been withdrawn and everything is back to normal." He said the executive members of the association were informed of the rescindment Wednesday.

Although Ministry of Interior officials refused to make any formal comment, one ministry official privately confirmed that the ban was no longer effective and the decision was withdrawn.

Minister of Interior Salem Massa'deh said last week that the ban was a compromise aimed at appeasing more "conservative" elements in society. He said the ban would only apply to men trying to get licenses to open new beauty salons. The minister could not be reached for comment Friday.

Naber said that the ministry had assured the association that anyone, male or female, could get a new license for a beauty salon "just like before."

A senior official, commenting on the decision, said he did not expect the ministry to make a formal announcement of the withdrawal of the ban "in order not to make a big issue out of the move."

The ban, seen as a result of pressure by Islamists, sparked a controversy in more moderate circles which prompted some groups, including women activists, to lobby against the move, describing it as a violation of constitutional provisions which stipulate equal rights for men and women in the Kingdom. Spokesmen

British engineer dies under mysterious circumstances in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A British engineer was found dead in his hotel room under mysterious circumstances, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Friday.

The man was discovered Wednesday in his Novotel hotel room and doctors have yet to determine his cause of death, according to the INA report, which quoted an unidentified spokesman for the Ministry of Interior.

The agency identified the man as J. Gordon Glass but had no details about his age or family.

The British embassy said it had no immediate comment at this stage of the investigation.

The embassy was immediately informed and it asked a British doctor working in Iraq to join the Iraqi team investigating his death at the Baghdad morgue.

Results of the examination will be made public when the team finishes its investigation, INA said.

The agency said Glass, an em-

ployee of Graham Johnson Machinery of Coventry, England, arrived on May 2 to fix machinery for an Iraqi plant belonging to the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation.

INA said he was accompanied by two other British engineers, but did not identify the nature of the Iraqi plant or the kind of machinery under repair.

There are 2,500-3,000 British engineers and businessmen in Iraq and many work in plants belonging to the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation, Iraq's prime weapons developer.

Most kept an especially low profile during demonstrations against the British embassy since relations between the two countries soured over the past two months.

Iraq hanged Fazlollah Bazoft, a London-based Iranian born correspondent for the Observer weekly, on spying charges on March 15. The British ambassador, withdrawn in protest, returned to his post Thursday.

Relations further deteriorated after Britain stopped two shipments it said were headed for Iraq's arms industry — one a super canon and the other electronic parts that could be used in the trigger for a nuclear weapon.

Iraq denied the charges, saying the alleged gun parts were for two British companies for a petrochemical plant in Iraq. Khezreji said that his government has invited Greek military experts to examine the defences.

British defence and customs officials have said that tubes impounded in Greece, Turkey and Britain may form part of a giant gun capable of firing nuclear and chemical weapons.

Other suspected parts of the gun have been found in Italy and West Germany.

Thousands march for ruling party in Algiers

ALGIERS, Algeria (R) — An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 people marched Thursday through central Algiers, singing patriotic songs and chanting for the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

Proclaimed as "a national demonstration of fraternity and solidarity," the march was intended as a reply to the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the pro-democracy movement, which organised similar, separate demonstrations during the past month.

By contrast with last week's pro-democracy demonstration, which drew about 100,000 people in pouring rain, the ruling party's

march was favoured by sunshine. The fundamentalists' march on April 20 drew an estimated 200,000 people.

Many of the marchers Thursday were farm workers and nearly all were men. Most appeared old enough to have experienced Algeria's eight-year war of liberation against France which ended 28 years ago.

The march was carefully organised by the National Liberation Front, which mobilised trains and buses from across the country to bring demonstrators to Algiers. By contrast, the Islamic march in April was held without assistance from state-owned transportation. The official Algerian News Agency (APS) estimated the

changers walked slowly for three kilometres from the 1st of May Square to the Square of the Martyrs, kept in line by officials with arm bands and megaphones. No violence was reported.

The demonstration took place three weeks before local elections scheduled on June 12, the first multi-party elections since independence.

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Candidates feast voters in Kuwait election campaign

KUWAIT (R) — Huge tents decked out with coloured lights have sprung up around Kuwait as candidates for a new interim assembly seek votes with traditional Arab hospitality.

Sheep are kept in cages nearby, ready for slaughter for the evening meals the candidates serve to

supporters among the 65,000 voters of this northern Gulf state.

With its oil wealth, Kuwait is one of the biggest overseas investors in the Arab World.

Although the hospitality is in line with custom, the cost has raised some eyebrows. The daily Al-Siyassa pointed out such

largest might be beyond the means of some contenders.

In a quiet start to the campaign, however, press comment so far has been mostly criticism of a pro-democracy movement whose leaders say the new assembly will be toothless and call for a boycott of the June 10 poll.

Kuwait's last parliament, widely considered the liveliest in the Arab World, was dissolved by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in 1986 at the height of the Gulf war between nearby Iran and Iraq.

"It is not a supreme law, it does not come from God... I would be a criminal if I respected that law," he said.

Abie Nathan: Israeli minister met PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan, under investigation for meeting PLO chief Yasser Arafat, has said a right-wing minister also met members of the outlawed Palestinian organisation.

Nathan was released on bail of \$5,000 Thursday after admitting he met Arafat in Tunis on a recent trip. He said he had seen records in Tunis of a London meeting between Justice Minister Dan Meridor and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

"I saw the file in Tunis. He met with two people in London," Nathan told Israel Television.

The two were members of the PLO, outlawed in Israel as a terrorist organisation, he said.

Asked to identify the PLO officials, Nathan responded: "In the court I will tell the judge. These people are afraid that their names will be publicised."

Dan Meridor, a protege of hawkish Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, told Reuters the accusations were false.

"I never met PLO leader, man or delegate in secret or in public," Meridor said. He said he was in London in November or December and addressed diplomats and foreign journalists at Chatham House, the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

Nathan arrived home from his latest talks with Arafat to receive a police summons at Ben Gurion Airport Wednesday. He reported to the police serious crimes unit and was taken to a magistrate's court for a bail hearing.

Afterwards, he told reporters he would meet Arafat again and again, and give his life to the peace cause.

"There is no punishment that bothers me or stops me. I am ready to do everything, even to give life," he said.

The Iranian-born Nathan was released from prison in February after serving four months of a six-month sentence for a previous meeting with Arafat.

"It is not a supreme law, it does not come from God... I would be a criminal if I respected that law," he said.

Eleven Soviet-made T-52 tanks have guarded Nile bridges and the home of junta leader Omar

Amal makes new contacts over swap of Israeli bodies — ICRC

GENEVA (AP) — The Shi'ite Amal militia in Lebanon has made new contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning an offer to return the bodies of two Israeli soldiers in exchange for the liberation of Israeli-held Shi'ite prisoners, an ICRC spokesman said Friday.

"I can confirm that Amal has resumed contacts with us on the subject," said spokeswoman Martine Haemmerli, noting that ICRC had first been approached by both sides some time ago on the matter. She said she had no further comment.

An Israeli Defence official, who insisted on anonymity, said Thursday that Israel wants proof that Amal is holding the bodies before it was prepared to consider the proposal.

Such an exchange could encourage more releases of 16 Western hostages, including six Americans, held in Lebanon by pro-Palestinian radicals.

The negotiations were halted after inter-Shi'ite battles broke out, and Israel kidnapped Shi'ite Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid.

Last week, SLA Commander Gen. Antoine Lahad rebuffed appeals to make prisoner releases solely to help Western hostages.

He said three captured Israeli soldiers and missing militiamen from his own organisation would have to be part of any deal.

Only one of the seven Israeli

soldiers missing in Lebanon

has been held by the Syrian

organisation does not have the

bodies of any of our soldiers," he said. "If Amal believes the bodies are those of Israeli soldiers, let it first submit evidence to this effect. Only after we are convinced the bodies are in fact those of Israeli soldiers will there be room to negotiate the matter."

U.N. sources in South Lebanon discussed Thursday that in early 1989 Amal leader Nabil Berri approached United Nations' officials and offered to return Israeli bodies given to them by the PLO.

In exchange, Berri sought the release of Shi'ite prisoners held in Al Khiam, a prison controlled by the SLA in South Lebanon.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Berri never identified the bodies of the soldiers he was offering to trade. They added that Israel demanded proof and suggested evidence be given to representatives of the International Red Cross (ICRC).

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three soldiers missing since the

June 11, 1982 Battle of Sultan

Yakoub — U.S.-born Sgt.

Zachary Baumel, Sgt. Zvi Feldman,

and Cpl. Yehuda Katz,

were believed to be held by radical

Australians Samir Assad,

another soldier missing since

1982, was "apparently killed," former Defence Minister Yitzhak

Rabin has said.

The radical Democratic Front

for the Liberation of Palestine

has claimed that Assad was killed

in a 1984 Israeli air raid on an

island off Lebanon's northern

port city of Tripoli.

In 1986, the Marxist group

offered to exchange Assad's body

for 50 captive guerrillas. Israel

has turned down the offer.

Sudan plans national 'dialogue'

Hassan Al Bashir since he seized power last June 30. Khartoum's

six million people have been

under curfew since July.

De Klerk may visit Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli newspaper and radio reports said Friday that South African President F.W. De Klerk would visit the Jewish state next month but the South African embassy said no date had been fixed.

Davar newspaper and Israel Radio said De Klerk, currently touring European Community (EC) states in a campaign against sanctions, would visit Israel after talks in Washington scheduled for June 18.

It would be the first official

visit to Israel by a South African head of state.

"We have had informal approaches from Israel nothing in writing, and the state president would love to come sometime but nothing has been fixed yet," an embassy spokeswoman told Reuters.

De Klerk has won praise and cautious promises of support in Britain, France, Greece, Portugal and Belgium for his sweeping reforms, including direct talks with the African National Congress (ANC).

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Delegation drawn from cross-section of Americans plans 'peace pilgrimage' to Mideast

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A group of prominent Americans drawn from all walks of life and headed by two renowned former members of the U.S. Senate is expected to make what is billed as a "Pilgrimage for Peace to the Middle East" this month, according to informed sources.

A "position paper" adopted by the group, which begins the visit with a brief stopover in Amman May 22 enroute to Damascus, is more or less in line with the two-state solution endorsed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Arab World at large. The 46-member group will be led by former senators Charles Percy (Republican — Illinois) and George McGovern (Democrat — South Dakota), and will include former presidential candidate and Congressman John Anderson (Republican), former senator and Arab-American leader James Abourezk (Democrat — South Dakota), and former members of the House of Representatives David Brown and Pete McCloskey as well as famous cinematographer Reuben Abramson.

Other members of the group include Canadian Parliament member Ian Waddell, journalist and former hostage Jeremy Levin, actor Mike Farrell, several leading religious figures from the Christian and Jewish faiths, heads of giant conglomerates, former high-ranking officials in the administration and other experts on the Middle East.

According to the group's "position paper," a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, the delegation notes that "while the intifada has brought attention and increased appreciation for the plight of Palestinians and the depth of Israeli fears, there has not yet been enough momentum for a peace process, especially in the halls of Congress and the White House."

Underlining an awareness that "American citizens will have to lead the way for our political representatives," the delegation asserts that "a just and moral course of action is not likely to be taken without vigorous public support." It calls for an "independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel" through "respect and utilization of U.N. resolutions...particularly... (Security Council Resolutions) 242 and 338..." and emphasizes that an "international peace conference... under the supervision of the U.N. and the permanent members of the Security Council, is the vehicle best equipped and most acceptable to members of the international community."

It was not immediately known whether meetings were scheduled with leaders of the countries included in the "pilgrimage" — Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel. Informed sources said the team was seeking meetings with Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The delegation will arrive in Amman May 22 for transfer to Damascus and return to the Jordanian capital on May 25 enroute to Cairo. It formally begins a visit to Jordan on May 29 and crosses over to the occupied territories and Israel May 31. After spending four days there, the group will return to Amman June 5 and will leave the next day.

The high point of the "pilgrimage for peace" will be when the delegation will offer a prayer for peace in the Middle East during its visit to the Holy Land.

The trip is organized by the Washington, D.C.-based Pax World

Foundation in coordination with the Cyprus-based Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) and its representatives in the countries in the region.

According to Kjell Jonasson, the MECC representative in Amman, efforts are under way to schedule meetings between the delegation and Jordanian leaders and senior officials. One of the major impediments is the hectic preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 28.

Jonasson said a panel discussion between the delegation members and Jordanian officials and politicians was also being planned, but it was premature to offer details.

Ideas were also explored earlier whether the delegation could join an international peace march organized by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and scheduled to take place in early June. However, the idea fell through when the ADC decided to postpone the event until Nov. 29, officials said.

Following is the full list of the members of the "Pilgrimage for Peace to the Middle East" delegation:

Co-leaders: Former U.S. senator Charles Percy and George McGovern; Pax World Foundation facilitators: G. Charles Rhoads, Charolett Goodwin and Laura Barnitz; Mission Coordinator: Jamil Shami

Reuben Abramson: Cinematographer

James Abourezk: Former U.S. senator

John Anderson: Former member of Congress

Norman E. Barth: Executive director, Lutheran World Relief

Michael Beard: President, National Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

Leonard Beerman: Rabbi

David Brown: Former member of the U.S. House of Representatives

David Boyer: Professional writer, photographer, retired from National Geographic

Charlotte Feinberg Brody: Trustee, Feinberg Foundation

Frank Breckbill: Board member, Houston United Nations Association

Carole Breckbill: Hermann Hospital, Houston, Texas

Leone J. Castillo: Head of immigration under President Carter

Chairman, Hermann Hospital, Hispanic community leader

William Peter Clay: Assistant to Ian Waddell, member of Canadian Parliament

Scott Cohen: Consultant, Scott Cohen & Associates

Rita Cohen: Spouse

Hilary Esmonde-White: International foreign policy and trade analyst

Patrick Esmonde-White: Editor, New Voices Radio

Mike Farrell: Actor, political activist

Barbara Good: Retired U.S. foreign service officer, vice president, National Woman's Party

Neal Keny: Former director of Middle East Affairs, Save the Children

Arthur Kobacker: Chairman Pickway Shoes, the Shoe Works, Gussini Shoes

Saul Landau: Senior fellow, Institute for Policy Studies

Jeremy Levin: Former CNN news bureau chief and hostage in Lebanon

Barbara Lubin: Executive Director, Middle East Children Alliance

David Mahsman: Reverend, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Robert J. Marshall: Retired bishop; president, Lutheran World Relief

Robert Marx: Rabbi

Nassim N. Matar: H & O Properties

Tom McBurney: Executive vice-president/chairman of Pillsbury Foods International; former chair, Minnesota Public Radio

Pete McCloskey, Jr.: Former member of U.S. House of Representatives

Mark Percy: Vice-president, Charles Percy & Associates

Diane Porter: Episcopal Church Centre

W. Burkett Raper: President, Mount Olive College, North Carolina

Rose Raper: Spouse

John B. Ray: Professor, political geographer, Middle Tennessee State University Katherine T. Ray: Philosophy/Religion Dept., Middle Tennessee State University

John Rogers: Catholic Priest

Abdul Aziz Said: Professor of international relations at the American University

Richard Schaeffer: Lawyer, Frank Bernstein, Conaway & Goldman

Woodrow Seals: Senior judge, Texas

Kamalah Shami: Educator

Ian Waddell: Member of Canadian Parliament

Barbara Wiedner: Founder, Grandmother for Peace

Following is the "position paper" adopted by the "Pilgrimage for Peace to the Middle East" delegation:

White the intifada has brought attention and increased appreciation for the plight of Palestinians and the depth of Israeli fears, there has not yet been enough momentum for a peace process, especially in the halls of Congress and the White House. As in other calamitous incidents throughout our recent history, such as the Vietnam war and the excessive nuclear buildup, it is apparent that American citizens will have to lead the way for our political representatives. A just and moral course of action is not likely to be taken without vigorous public support.

Therefore, we, clergy of all religions, political figures, former members of Congress, ambassadors, foreign service officers, public officials, academicians, civic leaders, physicians, attorneys, scientists, writers, journalists, and other professionals declare through our participation in the "Pilgrimage for Peace to the Middle East" our support of the following:

An independent Palestinian State alongside the State of Israel.

The sovereignty of both peoples must be respected and protected.

The respect and utilization of United Nations resolutions towards enhancing the efforts of peace in the region, particularly U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which must be considered the legal and political grounds for an acceptable solution to both sides of the conflict.

The resolution of the conflict must be achieved only through non-violent means. The international peace conference, under the supervision of the United Nations and the permanent members of the Security Council, is the vehicle best equipped and most acceptable to members of the international community.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday receives a Chinese delegation led by Deputy Mayor of Peking Kuang Chao for discussions on bolstering cooperation between the two countries' capitals (Petra photo)

Peking, Amman to boost cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-member delegation led by Deputy Mayor of Peking Kuang Chao Friday went for a visit to the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley and the Greco-Roman archaeological town of Jerash in the company of officials from the Amman Municipality.

A Chinese embassy official told the Jordan Times Friday the delegation members would visit Saturday several development projects carried out by the Amman Municipality and would hold further talks with municipal officials on cooperation between Amman and Peking in city planning and other projects.

The delegation members, who arrived in Amman Thursday, were received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran with whom they discussed areas of cooperation between the two capitals. The delegation leaves for home Monday.

Farmers to have new federation

AMMAN (J.T.) — All farmers and citizens working in the agricultural fields will be entitled to join the projected Jordanian farmers federation which will come into being once it has been approved by the government, according to Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat.

In a statement published by the press minister said a draft law on the new federation had been finalized and now awaits official government endorsement before further measures can be taken for its formal establishment in Jordan.

"Once it has been set up, the federation, the first of its kind in

the Kingdom, will create branches in all governorates including the Jordan Valley region," Arabyat said following a meeting by the higher agricultural council on Wednesday.

The council, meeting under Arabyat's chairmanship, was also attended by ministers of supply, water and irrigation and municipal and rural affairs and the environment.

Arabyat was quoted as saying that the meeting defined sources for financing the federation's activities which will benefit all farmers' societies in the country.

Projects in south seek to improve people's lives

TAFILEH (J.T.) — The beginning of June will witness the start of several development schemes in the Tafileh governorate designed to help alleviate the negative effects of this year's drought and the present unemployment, according to Tafileh Governor Khalaf Al Mahameh.

The governor said that as of the first of the coming month work will begin throughout the governorate on maintenance of roads, development of water springs, building of agricultural roads, planting of fruit and forest trees and repairing canals, projects which are bound to improve the economic situation and employ further numbers of citizens in the governorate.

He said that JD 100,000 have been received out of JD 500,000 allocated for development projects, according to plans announced by Prime Minister Mudar Badran during his visit to the Tafileh governorate last March.

NCHA held first meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid has said the establishment of the National Council for the Handicapped Affairs (NCHA) reflects the extent of attention paid to the handicapped in Jordan and the endeavours to develop the services offered to them.

Chairing the first meeting of the NCHA Thursday, Prince Ra'd stressed the need to discuss the law related to the handicapped affairs and the proposed amendments in order to conclude it complementary law.

Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shureikh said the ministry does its best to provide services to the handicapped in cooperation with other ministries and departments.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with all matters related to promoting services provided to the handicapped.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the exact time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

• Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shafei Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

• Art exhibition by students of Nazareth Sisters School at the French Cultural Centre.

• Art exhibition by Husni Abu El-Khayr at the Alia Art Gallery.

• Exhibition of paintings depicting national heritage, nature and the Arab woman by Leila Al-Shawwa at Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

• Exhibition of paintings by Randa Barouti at Goethe Institute.

LECTURES

• Lecture by Dr. Mohammed Javed Rizvi entitled "Oil, education, and the upcoming international struggle in the Arabian Gulf" at Abdul Hameed Shafei Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

SEMINARS

• Opening of a seminar on improving media directed at the handicapped at the radio and television building at 10:00 a.m.

With deep sorrow the Spanish Embassy wishes to communicate the demise of the Defence Attaché, Col. Wenceslao de Moya.

A condolence book will be opened at the Chancery of the Embassy on Thursday the 17th and Saturday the 19th of May 1990, between 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Alia attends horse show

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Friday attended the Arabian horse show, held at the royal stables in Hummar to raise funds for the Friends of the Liver Patients Society. Princess Alia said that horse-riding was one of the most beautiful and useful kinds of sports. Princess Alia said riding was part of the Arab heritage and for directing special care to original Arabian horses and training them to participate in world horse shows. The event is designed to raise funds for the Friends of the Liver Patients Society, to enable it undertake the necessary studies and support the health education programmes at schools and camps.

ACC transport ministers meet Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The general secretaries at the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministries of transport will hold a meeting in Amman Tuesday. The discussions will deal with setting a mechanism and formula for the implementation of the cooperation agreement the ACC countries signed recently in Amman, which deals with cooperation in land transport of people and goods. The conference, will furthermore, define the subjects and recommendations to be presented to the ACC ministers of transport during the meeting they will hold in Amman in June.

Jordan, Tunisia to boost media relation

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia, Talal Al-Hassan Friday discussed with Tunisian Director-General of Radio and Television Saladdin Ma'iwyeh means to bolster bilateral

relations in the information media. The Tunisian official praised the existing cooperation saying that during the past few years Jordan's programme and television production occupied an outstanding role in the Arab markets.

Bakhit chairs Euro-Arab talk committee

TUNIS (Petra) — Permanent Arab representatives to the Arab League, meeting here to discuss preparations for a Euro-Arab dialogue symposium which will be held in Amman early next year, selected Adnan Al-Bakhit, vice-president of the University of Jordan for Planning and Community Development Affairs, as chairman of a special committee, which has recently been established to devise means for enhancing Euro-Arab cooperation in the cultural and social fields as well as technical and vocational training and narcotics control.

UNRWA veterans honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Ele Saaf Thursday handed over testimonials and medals to seven UNRWA employees in Jordan who have served for 40 years, according to a press release issued by the agency. The old timers joined UNRWA on May 1, 1950 when it started operations. UNRWA has some 18,000 staff members in its area of operations namely Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as in its headquarters in Vienna. UNRWA provides education, health and relief services for some 2.3 million Palestinian refugees registered with it.

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Features

Ban on male hairdressers — more than meets the eye

By Nermene Murad

This column was written before information reached the Jordan Times that the government has reversed a decision banning

Jordan's government's decision to ban male hairdressers from owning beauty parlours or catering for female clients is not only unconstitutional, it also contravenes a 1980 decision by the Supreme Court rejecting such a measure in the city of Irbid.

Supreme Court decision 24 of the year 1980 published on page 1,619 of the Lawyer Association magazine of 1980 and confirmed again on pages 569 and 570 under article 1,93 of the collection of the Supreme Court principles (second edition) published by the Jordan Distribution Agency stipulates:

"There is nothing in the trade licensing law that would ban a man from opening a ladies' beauty parlour."

The fact that the country's religion is Islam and Islam does not allow a stranger to touch the "orta" (translated as private parts in the dictionary) of a Muslim woman does not contradict licensing a women's beauty parlour to the applicant (who was a man) since there is no stipulation in the licence which requires Muslim women to call on the applicant's parlour and (it is left to) every woman who believes in her religion not to allow a stranger to touch her.

the country's religion is Islam and the issuance of laws which limit the personal freedoms of the general public.

The ruling stresses and highlights one of the basic tenets of democracy, which is freedom of choice. The Constitution obviously stipulates that all citizens, regardless of sex or origin, are equal in rights and obligations. So, the Constitution guarantees the hairdressers the right to choose the type of work they want and denies the issuance of a law which would differentiate between one citizen from another in the name of protecting morality.

This is the Constitution that we have been clinging to as the foundation of the democratic march in Jordan.

However, the legal argument does not end there. The Constitution also stipulates that personal liberty is protected. This particular article is one of very few articles in the Constitution that was not tailored with a limiting stipulation governing it by laws. Absolutely no one can infringe on this article in the Constitution; not even the government. This article obviously allows women the liberty to choose the place they want to have their hair done and goes as far as protecting it.

Reference to legal documents and the articles of the Constitution in this matter is not done because hairdressing is a national security issue that needs legal analysis. It is only

because the government's decision is an outright attack on legal norms and on the articles of the Constitution and as such it subjugates women to the whims and fancies of political groups that aim to limit the freedom of Jordanian citizens in the name of democracy and the rule of the majority.

If the government is going to continue submitting to the de-

dominated society is being faithfully represented in the government, which, lost for something to pacify some deputies with, opted to infringe upon the rights of women, who do not matter and will not matter until real democracy influences this country.

The real problem is that the public at large is not concerned right now because this particu-

larity to grow beards and wear white turbans? Where does this violation of personal choice and civil liberty stop?

Again, the issue is not over male hairdressers and their livelihood or the fancies of women over their looks. The issue goes much deeper than that. It is an issue of the basic human and civil rights of citizens in a country which faces external political and military threats as well as severe economic problems.

The question asked by many who were shocked by the government's decision is: "Have the executive and legislative authorities already completed all the measures needed to rectify Jordan's economic problems?" Only in such a situation would the government and the Lower House of Parliament be allowed to shift their efforts to issues such as hairdressers.

Has the land of Palestine been returned to its original owners, Palestinians (men and women)? Only then would the people who were overjoyed over the prospect of electing persons capable of handling pressing economic and political issues accept the discussion of issues as insignificant to the country as hairdressers. Male hairdressers won't bring Palestine back.

When we are only taking the first steps towards national economic and political reforms, does it seem necessary to the

government to dictate such policies which are obviously infringing upon the freedom of others?

The answer seems simple. Some deputies have made loud pledges to their constituents to introduce social reform, along with economic and political reform. They feel incapable of providing the more important pledges so they are turning to insignificant issues to show that they are doing something. Well, they are not. And the people will not be fooled by these decisions. When the majority of the public is finding trouble making ends meet they will not be pacified by the fact that their daughters, wives and mothers are not going to male guardians.

The only route now open to the women and men of this country who believe in the introduction of a healthy society, economically, politically and socially, is to stand up to these trends and refute them legally. The era of sitting down and waiting should be over.

The men and women of this country have sat down and watched as the Constitution was violated again and again over issues pertaining to the status of women in this society. They watched as the Passport Department required women to provide letters from their "male guardians" allowing them to acquire passports, a right that is

constitutionally guaranteed to all citizens regardless of sex. Women watched as brothers killed sisters, fathers killed daughters in the name of morality and "family honour." These are not issues that only upset women, they upset men who hold their mothers, sisters, daughters and female relatives in high esteem, and who respect the role of women in society. When is it going to end?

It is about time that women in this country started proving that they do not need government-imposed laws to guard their honour or morality. Who, by constitutional right, can dictate that women would not know how to behave if their passports were not governed by male guardians? Absolutely no one. The government ban on male hairdressers proves that there is a last-ditch attempt by the patriarchal society to tie another knot in the rope that has been holding women by the neck in the name of protecting them. Women are able human beings who have been blessed with minds of their own and should be treated as such. It is time that this society started to comprehend that morality and discipline are personal traits that cannot be dictated through laws. And women will no longer be scapegoats for influential men who are looking to pacify political groups looking for ways to pacify certain — but by no means at all — segments of society.

Final hearing set for Monday on 'Qadiani' case

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A Jordanian accused of being a member of the outlawed Qadiani sect of Islam has been given until Monday to produce a written explanation of his intentions when he signed a paper in 1987 sent by the court as a pledge of allegiance to the mystical group but refused by the defendant in the controversial case.

The Sharia prosecutor-general Wednesday completed the presentation of documents to the court, including a paper signed by the accused on June 17, 1987, pledging allegiance to the Qadianis. Nafaa Shara Court Judge Khaled Ouriqat told the Jordan Times: "It was the third hearing of the case, and the court will complete its deliberations Monday after reviewing the explanation to be submitted by the defendant," he said in a telephone interview.

According to the judge, the accused, journalist and writer Ibrahim Abu Naab, told the court Wednesday that "there was a purpose behind his signing of the documents and this would be explained in the paper he is expected to submit to the court by Monday."

But, according to Abu Naab, the order was withdrawn after the governor of Amman contacted various other authorities in the country, including the chief Islamic justice, and decided he (the governor) could not carry it out. The governor could not be reached for comment.

The case is the second in recent

times in Jordan related to the Qadiani sect which was founded in the town of Qadian in Punjab, India, in 1889 by Mirza Gulam Ahmad (1839-1908), who claimed himself to be a "reappearance (buruz) of the Prophet Mohammad, the Christian Messiah and a reincarnation of Lord Krishna," revered as the lord prophet in Hinduism.

According to Judge Ouriqat, the prosecution of Qadianis under Islamic law draws its legal basis from the Holy Koran and the traditions of the Prophet Mohammad. The World Islamic League has issued a fatwa (religious decree) clearing the way for prosecuting Qadianis under Islamic law, a lawyer noted.

The earlier case heard in Jordan and tried by the same court about six weeks ago involved Taber Kazaq, a businessman. According to Judge Ouriqat, the court found that Kazaq was the leader of Qadianis in Jordan. Kazaq was ordered "separated" from his wife but when he "repented," all proceedings against him were withdrawn and he "remarried" his wife.

According to Abu Naab, the Sharia prosecutor-general, Abdulla Shamsiyah, who filed the case against him in the name of public right, is also demanding that the accused be banned from writing as well as from translating and interpreting the Holy Koran.

Abu Naab confirmed that he had attended a world conference of Qadianis held in London in June 1987 after he was approached by the sect for media coverage of the event. "I was accompanied by my son, and I paid for the air fare and

other expenses," he told the Jordan Times. "It was strictly a professional assignment as a journalist. The paper that I signed was only aimed at gaining entry to the closely-guarded sanctuary of the Qadianis with a view to obtaining in-depth information on the sect."

"I was only exercising the right of a journalist to take various options available to gather information," he said. "It is true that I signed the paper, but the paper does not say that I owe my allegiance to the Qadianis."

"In fact, joining the Qadianis involves a complex procedure," he said. "One has to undertake to pay 16 per cent of his annual income and bequeath 10 per cent of all assets to the sect, in addition to a pledge to carry out all orders issued by the group's leadership. Only then could one be considered a Qadiani."

Furthermore, he said, "my son and myself left the London conference before it concluded since we were convinced that the entire thing was a falsehood."

The paper that I signed was apparently given to the court by the Qadianis themselves, who became my enemies after I exposed them," Abu Naab said and referred to an Arabic-Language book he published in 1989 entitled "The Qadianis Explode from Within." The book explains the beliefs and customs of the Qadianis, who have a strong presence in Britain, Pakistan and some regions of India and small communities in West Africa and the United States. The doctrine of the Ahmadiyah sect, condemned by Islamic religious leaders, includes a contention that Jesus Christ feigned death and resurrection, and fled to

India where he died at the age of 120, and an interpretation that jihad (holy war) is a battle against unbelievers to be waged by peaceful means rather than by violence.

By all accounts, the Qadiani sect, which broke away from the mainstream Ahmadiyah group after the death of Mirza Gulam Ahmad, is believed to have a strong financial base and its members are zealous missionaries, preaching Ahmadi beliefs as the one true Islam with Mohammad and Mirza Gulam Ahmad as prophets. The grandson of Mirza Gulam Ahmad is currently the "emir" of the sect.

The Ahmadiyah sect, which is now believed to be stronger in Egypt than elsewhere, including its place of origin, according to some accounts, considers Gulam Mirza Ahmad only as a reformer (mu-jaddid).

Most Islamic countries have outlawed both the Ahmadiyah and Qadiani sects.

Abu Naab told the Jordan Times that attending the London conference was his first close encounter with the Qadianis and the gathering "convinced" him that the sect was doomed" and that he had "told its leaders that the year 1989 (the centenary of the group) will witness the beginning of the end for the Qadianis."

"In fact, Hassan Odeh, a third-generation Qadiani from Palestine, told me in 1989 that my words had been proven true," Abu Naab said. "Odeh was the leader of the Qadianis in the Middle East, and he quit the group in 1989."

No definite figure on the number of Qadianis in Jordan is available but knowledgeable sources would not put it higher than half a dozen.

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Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

Shamir ruled out a new alliance with Labour.

"I did not discuss this possibility with Labour Party leader (Shimon) Peres and I think it is not realistic today," he said.

In other developments, Labour announced it would delay by 10 days the publication of an internal report placing blame for the party's poor showing in the 1988 parliamentary elections and 1989 municipal balloting.

The report, which reportedly criticizes Peres, was to have been published Thursday. It is expected to boost the campaign by former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to oust Peres as party boss.

Peres Thursday tried to diminish the expected impact of the report, saying on Israel Army radio:

"We don't speak of guilt or a crime here but of a theoretical thing, how to run an elections campaign. Some can say it should be done this way, some another... I think this report was lost because of exaggerated, irresponsible lies."

Rabin, who served as defence minister in the last government, has demanded elections for party leader be held by next week.

Peres has agreed in principle to a vote but said the party should wait at least until it becomes clear whether Shamir will be able to form a government.

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Jordan Times

Economy

German cabinets approve economic union treaty

BONN (R) -- The cabinets of East and West Germany approved Friday a treaty on currency and economic union that will launch the two states formally on the road to political unification.

The treaty, introducing West Germany's currency and its free-market economic system into East Germany from July 1, was to be signed by Bonn's Finance Minister Theo Waigel and East Berlin's Walter Romberg in Bonn later Friday.

The signing, just six months afterhardtlin communist rule installed in East Berlin after World War II collapsed in a peaceful revolution, marks the beginning of the end of East Germany's existence as a separate state.

"The common economic order of both German states will be

approved the document. A 16-member delegation led by Prime Minister Lothar Maiziere then left for Bonn for the signing ceremony.

"This treaty demands from East Germany... the willingness, on the road to German unity, to give up a large part of its sovereignty into the hands of the West German government and Bundesbank (central bank)," Otto Lamsdorff, leader of the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), told a party meeting in Bonn.

The FDP is the junior partner in the coalition led by Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU). The FDP's Unity fund

The Finance Ministry said the Bonn cabinet had also approved a

"German unity" fund to help finance unification and a second supplementary budget of three billion marks, largely start-up aid for a new East German pension and social security system.

The "German unity" fund, agreed Tuesday, will make available 115 billion marks to East Germany.

"The second supplementary budget makes clear: Tax increases are not necessary to finance German unity," the Finance Ministry said.

CDU and FDP parliamentarians gave their backing to the treaty before a cabinet meeting chaired by Kohl after his return from talks in Washington with President George Bush.

"Rarely has our party decided on matters of comparable weight

and importance," Alfred Dregger, parliamentary leader of the CDU, told his colleagues.

Dregger, noting that the treaty was being signed six months and nine days after the Berlin Wall was opened November 9, said the two Germans should press ahead to full unification as quickly as possible.

"We want to use this historic moment. Circumstances have never been more auspicious," he said.

Kohl hopes all-German elections to a new parliament in December this year or January 1991 will complete the unification process.

East Germany's conservative-led coalition, elected in the country's first free elections in March, will have to make the hard decisions on restructuring its antiquated industry that could lead to mass unemployment.

In the longer term, both countries hope Western-style free markets will produce an "economic miracle" similar to that enjoyed by West Germany in the post-war years.

West Germany revealed the extent of East Germany's debts

Thursday -- a figure kept secret by the country's former Stalinist rulers.

Finance Minister Waigel gave the information at a news conference to mark the end of talks on a state treaty.

The East German budget will have a deficit of 33 billion marks (\$20 billion) in the second half of 1990 and one of 53 billion marks (\$32 billion) in 1991."

COCOM trade changes may cause problems for Moscow

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

LONDON -- Western allies appear ready to rewrite their restrictions on electronics exports in a way that could freeze out the Soviet Union while permitting its former satellites access to the latest in high technology.

But trade experts said any discrimination against the Soviet Union would be ineffective in the long run because Moscow was unlikely to settle for third-rate technology while the rest of the Warsaw Pact was being allowed to catch up with the West.

The East Bloc has been barred for 40 years from the latest in computer, telecommunications and other electronics equipment by Western nations concerned that the technology would be used for military purposes.

The restrictions are the work of COCOM, the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, a Paris-based alliance of 17 nations -- the NATO members excluding Iceland, plus Japan and Australia.

Ever since East Bloc states started winning the right last year to control their own destinies, COCOM's European members have pressed for the restrictions to be relaxed or scrapped.

But the United States, long the most hard-line COCOM member, seems set to bow to

West European pressure, at least in part.

In recent weeks, Bush administration officials have said that, when COCOM meets in June, the United States would support a two-tier reform.

Barriers to technology trade with East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania are expected to be lowered dramatically, while remaining essentially intact for the Soviet Union because of its military strength.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher spelled out the U.S. position in West Germany recently, saying that Washington believed in raising the technology level for nations which did not pose a military threat.

But, regarding the Soviet Union, he said: "We support perestroika but the reality is they have the potential to be a great military threat."

"We are not going to turn around and just give the Soviet military the opportunity to catch up with us," he added.

Trade experts doubted such a two-tier approach would work.

The Soviet Union has been able to get its hands on much of this technology for years, even when it was restricted," said Randy Bregman, director of Soviet and East European services for the Washington-based trade consultant APCO Associates.

"A lot of these export controls have more political than practical value," he said. If Hungary or Poland gets certain technology, it won't be long before those products seep through to the Soviet Union, no matter what formal controls exist.

Bregman said pressure for change would also come from Western manufacturers who see better opportunities in the Soviet Union, a huge nation rich in natural resources, than small, poor and landlocked countries such as Hungary or Czechoslovakia.

Trade experts said prolonging the COCOM ban could cause the Soviet Union some short-term difficulties as it tried to modernise its backward industrial infrastructure, particularly its system of telecommunications.

The Soviet Union currently uses telephone switches that are more than 30 years old and has only about 10 phone lines per 100 people, a ratio lower than Hungary, East Germany or Czechoslovakia.

By comparison, the United States has about 90 phone lines per 100 people and the West European average is 60 lines.

Mosbacher argued that even the application of 10 year old technology would help enable the Soviet Union to make big improvements in communications, though it might end up with an analogue dial-up system rather than the digital push-button phones now common in the West.

"The whole of Africa... is on a downhill course. It is becoming poorer and poorer. If you can become more bankrupt than you were before, then that is what is happening in Africa," de Klerk told Belgian parliamentarians in Brussels this week.

"We cannot accept responsibility for the whole of Africa but we are prepared to accept co-responsibility with our European partners," he said.

Critics including Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) oppose new investment in South Africa before apartheid is fully dismantled.

They argue that economic pressure has helped to bring the end of white domination within view and that renewed economic links would give de Klerk the power to control the renewal that is under way in South Africa.

But sources on de Klerk's plane as he travels through Europe to promote his vision say he is getting a sympathetic hearing.

In Paris, de Klerk dined with businessmen and a socialist trade minister. In Greece he went sailing with industrialists and promised to explore new opportunities for trade.

In Lisbon and Belgium he continued to advocate new foreign investment in South Africa to give his government the means to implement the political reform it proposes.

"I have not come to Europe with my hat in my hand to beg for the lifting of sanctions," de Klerk said.

Instead, he argued then and later, Europe should re-evaluate its punitive economic sanctions in the light of his reforms and his promise of political rights for blacks.

The time has come in South Africa for encouragement and not pressure," he said on one occasion.

In Brussels, de Klerk told conservative legislators that sanctions, including a European ban on new investments in South Africa, had not influenced his political decisions but had undermined his ability to implement them.

"Sanctions are crumbling. Our balance sheet is improving yearly. Our debt ratio is among the best in the world. Our trade with Africa has doubled in two years," he said.

In a second stage, called "current account convertibility," the Polish government pledged to make foreign exchange available to companies

East Europe speeds up pace of currency reform

By Stephen Jukes
Reuter

LONDON -- Reformist policy-makers in Eastern Europe, desperate to attract foreign investment and put trade on a new international footing, are speeding up plans to make their practically worthless currencies acceptable in the West.

Hungary and Czechoslovakia both signalled this week that currency convertibility was a top priority in new economic reform programmes, following the lead of Poland whose shock therapy was based on a strategy to restore value to the zloty.

Even the Soviet Union, where debate over economic reform has split Kremlin policy-makers, is being pushed down the road to convertibility by disintegration of the old communist pattern of trade based on barter and notional rouble exchange rates.

"The Poles took a gamble freeing up their exchange rate but it has taken the pressure off the economy," said Ingrid Iversen, economist at American Express Bank in New York.

"It can serve as good model for moving to convertibility."

For decades under Communism, currencies in Soviet bloc nations bore little relationship to supply and demand for heavily subsidised goods in the domestic market and exchange rates were way out of line with international trade. It was often a crime to take money out of the country or hold dollars.

But, as the old systems are swept away, policy-makers have quickly become convinced that the key to a successful transition to Western-style free markets must be currency reform.

Major factors

Two major factors have spurred Eastern Europe into action:

for trade and backed up the promise with a \$1 billion boost to reserves funded by Western governments.

Poland has yet to advance to a third stage or "full convertibility" as in industrial countries where individuals have free access to currency and there are no capital controls.

Economists believe few East European nations will manage this before the end of the decade as they struggle with huge structural problems left over from the communist era.

But they do predict the new democratic legitimacy being conferred on governments in Hungary and Czechoslovakia will enable authorities to take tough decisions necessary to put their trade on a limited convertible basis relatively quickly.

Different picture

The Soviet Union, however, presents a very different picture and a growing dilemma for President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Unpopularity at home makes it difficult for Gorbachev to introduce price reforms in a move to a convertible rouble. But at the same time, the disintegration of the COMECON system is forcing Moscow to trade in convertible currencies.

Poland, after negotiations with Moscow, announced Thursday it would switch its trade with the Soviet Union to hard currencies at world prices from Jan. 1 next year.

The same is true for trade with East Germany where the issue has been forced by Bonn and East Berlin's agreement to replace the East German currency with the West German mark from July 1.

In an essential first phase economists call it "domestic convertibility" -- the zloty was devalued to what authorities saw as a realistic rate and many prices freed from subsidies.

In a second stage, called "current account convertibility," the Polish government pledged to make foreign exchange available to companies

and importers, Alfred Dregger, parliamentary leader of the CDU, told his colleagues.

Dregger, noting that the treaty was being signed six months and nine days after the Berlin Wall was opened November 9, said the two Germans should press ahead to full unification as quickly as possible.

"We want to use this historic moment. Circumstances have never been more auspicious," he said.

Kohl hopes all-German elections to a new parliament in December this year or January 1991 will complete the unification process.

F.W. de Klerk

De Klerk seeks European economic support

BRUSSELS (R) — A vision of South Africa as an economic powerhouse rescuing an impoverished continent from its spiral into bankruptcy has been a persistent theme of President F.W. de Klerk's tour.

Between meetings with prime ministers and heads of state in four countries over the past 10 days, South Africa's white Afrikaner leader has missed no chance to outline his dream to business and bankers.

"The whole of Africa... is on a downhill course. It is becoming poorer and poorer. If you can become more bankrupt than you were before, then that is what is happening in Africa," de Klerk told Belgian parliamentarians in Brussels this week.

"We cannot accept responsibility for the whole of Africa but we are prepared to accept co-responsibility with our European partners," he said.

Critics including Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) oppose new investment in South Africa before apartheid is fully dismantled.

They argue that economic pressure has helped to bring the end of white domination within view and that renewed economic links would give de Klerk the power to control the renewal that is under way in South Africa.

But sources on de Klerk's plane as he travels through Europe to promote his vision say he is getting a sympathetic hearing.

In Paris, de Klerk dined with businessmen and a socialist trade minister. In Greece he went sailing with industrialists and promised to explore new opportunities for trade.

In Lisbon and Belgium he continued to advocate new foreign investment in South Africa to give his government the means to implement the political reform it proposes.

"I have not come to Europe with my hat in my hand to beg for the lifting of sanctions," de Klerk said.

Instead, he argued then and later, Europe should re-evaluate its punitive economic sanctions in the light of his reforms and his promise of political rights for blacks.

The time has come in South Africa for encouragement and not pressure," he said on one occasion.

In Brussels, de Klerk told conservative legislators that sanctions, including a European ban on new investments in South Africa, had not influenced his political decisions but had undermined his ability to implement them.

"Sanctions are crumbling. Our balance sheet is improving yearly. Our debt ratio is among the best in the world. Our trade with Africa has doubled in two years," he said.

In a second stage, called "current account convertibility," the Polish government pledged to make foreign exchange available to companies

Israel looks for a supercomputer

TEL AVIV (R) — Despairing of securing a licence to import a U.S. supercomputer, Israel is considering buying one from a West German firm, an official of the leading Israeli technology institute said Friday.

Professor Brian Silver, vice-president for development at Haifa's Technion Israel Institute of Technology, said representatives of Bonn-based Superium GMBH visited Israel recently to present a supercomputer.

"We ordered a supercomputer from the American company Cray but we doubt it will be delivered because the United States has refused to give an export licence for it," Silver told Reuters.

The U.S. government bars the export of powerful computers to countries it thinks could use them to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

"That left us with no option. But over the past year a German company which has government backing produced a supercomputer," Silver added.

Superium's "parallel" supercomputer is based on completely different principles to its U.S. counterpart but is also of great interest to the Technion, Silver said.

"No one at Technion builds missiles and we are not helping anyone either," he claimed, adding that the nuclear engineering department had closed down.

Silver said a new multi-million dollar supercomputer would be used for research in chemistry, physics and engineering.

The West German embassy

said it had no information on a

promise by Superium officials but technological cooperation between the two countries was common.

Western diplomats told Reu-

ters that Israel was angered by reports that the United States was allowing the same supercomputer to be exported to Saudi Arabia.

Though the Technion is state-owned, Silver said it did not cooperate with the Israeli government in nuclear development.

"No one at Technion builds missiles and we are not helping anyone either," he claimed, adding that the nuclear engineering department had closed down.

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Western diplomats told Reu-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 19, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to delve into all the whys and wherefores of all the principles and precepts that are causing you confusion at the moment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1990

Manchester United beats Palace 1-0

WEMBLEY, England (AP) —

Jeffrey Lee Martin scored the goal that became a trophy and possibly European soccer to Manchester United at the one-time English powerhouse finally overcame Crystal Palace 1-0 in the Football Association Cup final replay Thursday.

The two sides tied 3-3 at Wembley Stadium and Martin's 29th-minute strike settled an ill-tempered rematch that did little to enhance the reputation of English soccer.

It was United's sixth cup triumph in 10 years and the result shows it may be England's superpower in the European Cup Women's Cup next season if English clubs are allowed back.

They have been banned since

May 1985, when rioting Liverpool fans at the Champions' Cup final against Italy's Juventus caused the deaths of 39 people in Brussels' Heysel stadium.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson created the first surprise of the replay, watched by 80,000 fans, by leaving out Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper who will be Scotland's first choice in the World Cup. Leighton was at fault for two of the Palace goals on Saturday.

The first half had all the sour ingredients of the game — gamesmanship, digging fouls and feuds that clearly carried over from Saturday's 3-3 tie.

Palace striker Mark Bright was shown the yellow card as early as the seventh minute for a late foul.

They have been banned since

challenge of Leighton's substitute, Lee Sealey, who was loan from Luton.

And at 27 minutes Palace midfielder Alan Pardew was cautioned for tripping United's Paul Ince.

There was little enterprise in United's side, lofted a pass over the Palace defense and Martin beat a defender to the ball before firing into the roof of the net from 10 metres (32 feet).

Several more players were lectured for foul play and United's Welsh international striker Mark Hughes became the third player to receive a yellow card.

Palace defender John Salako stung Sealey's fingers with a right-footed drive on 24 minutes and the United goalie blocked a well-struck free kick by Andy

Gray with his left knee to minutes later.

Martin lashed a free kick into the side of the Palace goal netting just before the break.

Michael Fagan, one of five England international players in United's side, lofted a pass over the Palace defense and Martin beat a defender to the ball before firing into the roof of the net from 10 metres (32 feet).

Within three minutes of the goal, Palace replaced midfielder Phil Barber with Ian Wright, scorer of two goals as substitute in Saturday's game.

But it was rejuvenated United that kept pouring forward and England captain Bryan Robson powered a header against the bar from Neil Webb's freekick.

Fenech hospitalisation delays Laporte challenge

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Three-time world boxing champion Jeff Fenech was hospitalized Friday suffering from what his doctors described as a viral infection.

The illness will force the postponement of Fenech's fight against Juan Laporte of Puerto Rico for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) super-featherweight championship, scheduled for the Sydney Entertainment Centre on June 26.

Craig Morley, son of promoter Bill Morley, said Fenech had been suffering from influenza for three days, but Friday complained of dizziness.

Morley said doctors diagnosed infections in both ears and had ordered Fenech to rest for at least two weeks. The fighter is expected to be hospitalized at least until Sunday.

YWCA honours winners of tennis tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — The YWCA spring tennis tournament, ended Friday, Dr. David Henshaw, president of the Jordanian Tennis Federation, distributed trophies and medals to all winners and participants.

In Friday's games, Kyri Shashash and Soha Kawa won the mixed doubles game while Abdallah Khalil and Lila Cummings came in second place.

In ladies singles, Lila Cummings and Jo Ann Donovan won by 6-1, 2-6, 6-3; between them, Lila and Shirin Anfour.

In men's doubles, Abdallah Khalil and Saad Rifi were over Kyri Shashash and Reza Qasim by 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

The closing ceremony was attended by the American and Greek ambassadors and other Jordanian and foreign dignitaries.

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SHOW PARTNER THE WAY

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH:

- * K Q 6 3
- * K 6
- * Q 8 10
- * 8 5 3
- WEST EAST
- * 2 * 4
- A 3 8 5 4 * Q 10 7 3 2
- 8 5 3 * A 9 6 4 2
- * 10 6 4 2 * 3 9 7
- SOUTH:**
- * 9 10 2 8 7 5
- 7
- * A K Q J

The bidding: North East South West

1 0 1 0 2 0 4 0
4 0 5 0 6 0 Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of C

Some might consider it the height of foolishness to bid a slam off two cashing aces. However, when the aces are split between the defenders, it is not always easy to get them.

East-West almost did well on this hand. Their presumptive tactics forced South to guess at a high level, and he went wrong. Unfortunately, the defenders "forgot" to cash their tricks. Obviously, South would have done better to double five hearts (North-South can inflict a four-trick defeat in the defense is

accurate), but South was sure he would find one ace with partner for his opening bid, and he didn't want to lose a vulnerable slam.

West led the ace of hearts and East, anxious to get a shift, followed with a discouraging two.

West gazed long and hard at his cards, but found no inspiration there. Eventually, he shrugged and shifted to a club, and declarer heaved a sigh of relief. He drew trumps, discarded his diamond on the king of hearts and chalked up his small slam.

Pur the blame for the debacle on East, since it was obvious to all that there were no more tricks for the defense in hearts. East should have taken the opportunity to signal he wanted a diamond, not a club.

How could he do that? By playing a high heart, preferably the queen, to ask for the higher of the other two side suits. But would that be begging for a heart continuation?

Normally, yes. But when a particular defense is known to be futile, it is not always easy to get them.

East-West almost did well on this hand. Their presumptive tactics forced South to guess at a high level, and he went wrong. Unfortunately, the defenders "forgot" to cash their tricks.

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A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any prequalified interested eligible Bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD (200).

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an acceptable form of not less than (40,000) JD and must be delivered to the Director General, UDD, P.O. Box 927198 Amman - Jordan or before 12:00 noon local time, on 17th June, 1990.

Bids will be opened in the presence of those Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12:00 noon local time, on 17th June, 1990 at the office of the UDD, UDD Marka Housing Project, Amman.

Telephone: 899361 / 62 / 63 P.O. Box: 927198 Amman - Jordan.

Telex: 22249 UDD JO

widely expected to win the 3,000 metres after a leg injury forced Aquila to stay away.

He took an early lead but struggled in third after losing ground to Mark Rowland of Britain and Spain's Abel Anton in the last 50 metres.

Eneng, the Olympic 800 metres gold medalist, also finished an lackluster third in the 1,000 and 3,000-metre events at the Santander outdoor athletics meeting Thursday night.

But Briton Peter Elliott's excellent performance in the 800 metres helped make up for the Kenyans' discouraging results and for the last minute pull-out of Moroccan star Said Aouita.

Elliott dominated from the start and romped home in one minute 45.20 seconds, the fastest time this year on the distance.

Karuki, Olympic 3,000 metres steeplechase gold medallist, was

content with second place in 7.91 metres behind Spaniard Angel Hernandez's 7.94 metres.

Eneng gave the start signal for 32 cars that roared off in the two-day event covering 1,055 kilometres and taking the drivers 300 metres down from sea level to the Dead Sea to finish the first leg in front of the Roman Amphitheatre, then out north towards the historic city of Jerash to finish the first day at midnight in Amman.

Khalifa kept the lead in the first day beating Bin Sulayem by winning most of the asphalt stages and leading by 21 seconds.

Isha Halaby, the leading Jordanian driver, was competing in a Ford Sierra Cosworth and keeping a solid third position ahead of Tony Georgiou, Khalifa's teammate in the Mitsubishi Ralliart

"It was a dog-fight between us, the car performed very well on asphalt stages, and I had the lead till I got a puncture on the Fujairah stage," said the Marlboro Mitsubishi contender Khalifa at the end of the rally.

Eneng was the first to cross the finish line in the final stage.

Bin Sulayem, however, knew the gap had become too big and was out to increase it. He won stage 18 (Beidha) and tied again with Khalifa on stage 19 (Halasa) while Khalifa won stage 20 reducing the gap down to 2:16 minutes

Bin Sulayem wins Jordan Rally

By Nar Sati

AMMAN — The Jordan Rally came to an unexpected end Friday when Sabail Khalifa, driving a Marlboro Mitsubishi Galant VR 4, finished the rally behind his rival Mohammed Bin Sulayem, after leading the rally for the first day and winning most stages on the second day.

Khalifa kept his lead, winning most of the morning stages until he lost two minutes in a puncture in Fujairah, only one stage before reaching the ancient city of Petra, for regrouping — a delay which gave the lead to Bin Sulayem.

Coming out of Petra, on the way back to Amman, in the second part of leg two, Khalifa was confident and said the rally "is not over until we get on the ramp."

Bin Sulayem, however, knew the gap had become too big and was out to increase it. He won stage 18 (Beidha) and tied again with Khalifa on stage 19 (Halasa) while Khalifa won stage 20 reducing the gap down to 2:16 minutes

and putting the heat back on Bin Sulayem.

The Russian team progressed with Sergei Bousine and Andrei Geurzenkov to third and fourth positions respectively in the FISA homologated cars group 'A' and 'N' while the Jordanian driver Mazen Dajani was leading group 'N', driving Toyota Corolla GT TI.

Following are the results for both sections of groups A and N and group S noting that group A and N had to strictly adhere to FISA safety regulations:

| Position | Driver/Co-Driver | Car | Time |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| 1. | M. Bin Sulayem/ R. Morgan | Toyota Cel. GT4 TU UAE | 3:35:00 |
| 2. | S. Khalifa/ M. Al Hajji | Mitsubishi Gal. VR UAE | 3:39:11 |
| 3. | S. Bousine/ A. Ousseine | Lada 21074 SU | 4:59:44 |
| 4. | M. Dajani/ K. Zakaria | Toyota Corolla GT HKJ | 5:29:0 |
| 5. | S. Kuzminov/ A. Miskinov | Lada Samara 21083 SU | 5:34:25 |
| 6. | N. Dirani/ B. Bustani | Opel Manta 2.0E HKJ | 5:52:24 |
| | | Mitsubishi Pajero SA | 4:58:57 |
| | | Range Rover UAE | 4:10:19 |
| | | Nissan 240 RS HKJ | 4:27:20 |
| | | Daihatsu Char. SPL HKJ | 4:31:21 |
| | | Nissan 240 RS HKJ | 4:48:49 |
| | | Toyota Corolla GT HKJ | 5:16:16 |

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If you have any information please contact Tel. No. 689192 or 812352.

SILK ROAD CARAVAN ENDS IN AQABA On 20th May 1990

Arriving Sunday morning around 12:00 noon to Yemanieh Beach (between diving centre and national camp) in Aqaba from Azraq after being for one month filming in the Jordanian desert the famous TV programme "Silk Road".

50 camels</

Communist past could thwart Iliescu party's coalition offer

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) has offered to form a broad coalition government after multi-party elections this Sunday but its links with the Communist past could leave the NSF without partners.

Opposition polls predict a majority for the leftist NSF led by presidential frontrunner and interim head of state Ion Iliescu in the first free vote in Romania for 53 years.

The front has said a national coalition is the best way to rebuild the ruined economy and to erase the executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's legacy of totalitarian rule.

The signs are, however, that such a coalition would be hard to create. The opposition is wary of the links of ex-Communist Iliescu and other leading NSF members to the Ceausescu era and suspicious that the front hijacked control of last December's popular uprising against Communism in a backstage coup.

None of the three main opposition parties have committed themselves to sharing power with the NSF — the National Liberals are evasive on it, the Social Democrats are reserved, and the National Peasants Party has ruled it out.

"We salute the NSF offer to

share power but we have major reservations," Social Democrat spokesman Vadim Aroneanu said.

"The last contested elections in 1946 taught us a bitter lesson. Then the Communists offered to form a government coalition which ended in the elimination of their partners."

The three parties were suppressed in the late 1940s but were revived in January after Ceausescu's overthrow and execution.

Radu Campeanu, Iliescu's Liberal opponent in the presidential race, said in a televised campaign debate Thursday that a coalition would be possible only "when there is a total break with the former Communist system."

His party has said a strong opposition to the NSF, linking the three historical parties on a common policy platform, may be more important to cement democracy.

Its goal would be "to put up a joint, constructive opposition and draft a democratic constitution which should bar any possible return to Communism," Liberal Vice-President Ioan Sandulescu told Reuters.

The right-wing Peasants Party dismisses the front outright as neo-Communist but it has said it would be ready to join the Liberals and Social Democrats in gov-

ernment or opposition.

"They have a well-defined democratic tradition and we do not expect any of them to militate for dictatorship," Peasants Party parliamentary candidate Razvan Dobrescu said.

Only a handful of the 82 parties contesting Sunday's elections are expected to win seats in the 387-member assembly of deputies and the 119-member senate.

Opposition polls predict the front will win about 60 per cent of the vote but if forecasts are wrong, as the NSF's opponents maintain, smaller parties could gain a pivotal bargaining role.

Chief among them is the Hungarian Democratic Union (HDS), flag bearer of the Hungarian ethnic minority with a constituency of up to one million of Romania's 16 million voters.

The HDS has shifted away from initial backing for the front and one of its leading figures, Carol Kiraly, appealed to ethnic Hungarians Thursday not to vote for Iliescu as president.

Kiraly, an interim vice-president responsible for Romania's 14 ethnic minorities, said on Hungarian-language radio that Iliescu had failed to fulfill promises to defend minority rights.

Meanwhile, an election rally in Timisoara, birthplace of the Romanian revolution, ended

violently as youths beat supporters of the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) with broken flagpoles.

The rally broke up Thursday after some 5,000 NSF supporters, mainly women, gathered in the city's Opera Square and about 300 opponents began shouting anti-front slogans.

The youths eventually surged onto the podium. Several women who tried to block them were hit in the face or had their hair pulled and were thrown to the ground. At least five were led away with bleeding faces and hands.

About 10 youths, some wearing leather wrist straps with studs, finally reached the platform and tore down flags.

Front supporters chanted the names of Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman. Their opponents believe the two men remain Communists at heart even though they say they reject Communism and all it stands for.

Police and unarmed troops stood by at the corners of the square but made no attempt to interfere or restore order.

"We never tried to break up any of the rallies of other parties," local front candidate Nicolae Dumitru told his supporters. "If our memory of what happened five months ago cannot unite us, then what will?"

"We must not apply a lesser standard against chemical weapons use than the use of nuclear weapons."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has vowed to use chemical weapons against Israel if the Jewish state launches a nuclear attack.

"Many months ago, I said that the evil genie of chemical weapons is already out of the bottle," said Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas. "It's even more critical today that we do everything we can to see that the genie does not spread its poison more widely."

The bill says that as many as 20 nations are capable of producing chemical weapons and that by the year 2000, at least 15 developing countries will have the ability to produce ballistic missiles capable of delivering the weapons.

Philippine plane crashes into house killing 25

MANILA (R) — Twenty-five people were killed when a Philippine inter-island plane with a crippled engine crashed two minutes after takeoff, bursting into a fireball in a Manila residential suburb, officials said.

They said the privately-driven Beechcraft 1900 tried to return to Manila airport but slammed instead into a house, killing the four occupants, a Japanese businessman and his family, and all 21 aboard.

The twin-engine plane's burning tail came to rest by the family swimming pool. The rest of the aircraft, its fuel tanks full, exploded and engulfed the house in

Senate approves law limiting chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved legislation without dissent requiring the president to impose sanctions against countries that violate international agreements barring chemical and biological weapons.

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The initial findings were that the right engine cut out after being airborne," said Jaime Cruz, chief of the airport Emergency Services Department. He said that just before the crash, the pilot radioed the control tower that he was turning back.

Two servants, a man and a woman, working for the Japanese family survived the explosion and fire.

Airport officials identified the Japanese executive as Yasukazu Suzuki, 47. Also killed were his Filipina wife and their two daughters, aged four and one, the officials said.

Most charges dropped against Helmsley

NEW YORK (AP) — A tax fraud indictment against Leona Helmsley was gutted by a judge who said state prosecutors were putting the self-styled hotel queen in double jeopardy. State Supreme Court Justice John Bradley said he dropped 180 of the 188 counts in the indictment because they are similar to those on which Mrs. Helmsley was tried in federal court last August. "The court threw out the heart and soul of the state's case," said Alan Denhoff, lead lawyer of Mrs. Helmsley's legal team. "New evidence will demonstrate that Mrs. Helmsley did not evade taxes."

"I'm very happy," Mrs. Helmsley, 70, said tearfully as she left court after hearing Bradley's ruling.

She suggested that the case against her was brought only because of her prominence. They're after my hide, she said. "I'm Leona Helmsley. I hold my head high because I know that I am an innocent person falsely accused and terribly maligned," she said.

Prize offered for proof of Loch Ness monster

LONDON (R) — A London bookmaker offered a £250,000 (\$422,500) prize Thursday to anyone proving the legendary Loch Ness monster really exists. In the last 60 years more than 800 sightings of Nessie have been reported but there is still no concrete evidence that a giant creature lurks in the Scottish lake. Bookmakers William Hill said the prize would be up for grabs during a three-day monster hunt it is sponsoring with local tourist authorities in October.

Stadium sex leads to new rules at hotel

TORONTO (R) — A couple who made love in a hotel room in full sight of a packed baseball stadium have forced the hotel to warn guests they can be seen by the crowd. The Skydome Hotel, built inside Toronto's new stadium, has 70 rooms that give a direct view of the playing field.

The couple's sexual performance was a highlight of Tuesday's game between the local Blue Jays and the Seattle Mariners. "There isn't a more exciting way to watch a baseball game, but for some people it's more exciting than others," Hotel Manager Ray Thompson said. "What our guests do behind closed doors is their own business as long as it's not criminal and there's no damage. But when there are witnesses, the guests are subject to immediate eviction and possible criminal charges." In an earlier incident a guest committed an indecent act in full view of the crowd in the belief that the bedroom window was one-way glass.

Liberian rebel chief excludes immediate elections

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury has found a 19-year-old white man guilty of second-degree murder in the killing of a black teenager in Bensonhurst, the most serious of a recent spate of racial confrontations in New York City.

Joseph Fama of Brooklyn, accused of being the triggerman in the killing of 16-year-old Yusuf Hawkins, faces a maximum sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

Jury forewoman Tonya Bailey delivered the verdict late Thursday after 10 tension-wrought days of deliberations.

Hawkins and three friends were going to look at a car that was for sale when they were attacked by a gang of whites last Aug. 23 in the mostly white Bensonhurst section of New York.

The verdict, the first conviction in the case, was greeted with shouts outside the courtroom by Hawkins' family and supporters.

Major David N. Dinkins said in a statement that the guilty verdict allows "us to turn our attention to the process of peace."

In a taped interview with Barbara Walters of ABC's "20/20" programme, Jiang also spelled out conditions under which dissident Fang Lizhi could leave the U.S. embassy in Peking, where he has been living since the crackdown, and said ousted Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang, who sympathised with the students, would not be brought to the United States.

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Jiang said 431 people, including 42 students, were still in prison "under investigation" over the crackdown.

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Renoir becomes second most expensive painting

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A Renoir painting of an outdoor Parisian dance hall that some thought might sell for more than \$100 million went for \$78.1 million at Sotheby's auction house.

The price set a record for a Renoir but fell \$4.4 million short of the record for the world's most expensive painting, set at Christie's when Van Gogh's Portrait of Dr. Gachet fetched \$82.5 million.

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